

What is claimed is:

1. A contents recording apparatus comprising:  
date/time information acquiring means for acquiring  
5 information on a date and time;

contents reproduction permission information  
generating means for generating contents reproduction  
permission information indicating that contents may be  
reproduced;

10 key information generating means for generating key  
information based at least on the generated contents  
reproduction permission information;

encrypting means for encrypting the contents based on  
the generated key information; and

15 recording means for recording the encrypted contents  
and recording date/time information or preset recording  
date/time information in a recording medium, said recording  
date/time information being acquired by said date/time  
information acquiring means and being information on a  
20 date/time that is between a moment the contents are entered  
and a moment the contents are recorded.

2. A recording medium recording therein:

25 contents encrypted based on key information generated  
based at least on contents reproduction permission information  
indicating that the contents may be reproduced; and

either recording date/time information on a date/time  
at which recording operation on the encrypted contents was  
performed or preset recording date/time information.

30 3. A contents reproducing apparatus that reproduces  
contents from a recording medium storing therein contents  
encrypted based on key information, generated based at least  
on contents reproduction permission information indicating  
35 that the contents may be reproduced, and either recording  
date/time information on a date/time at which recording

operation on the encrypted contents was performed or preset recording date/time information, said contents reproducing apparatus comprising:

5     date/time information acquiring means for acquiring information on a date and time;

      contents reading means for reading the encrypted contents from said recording medium;

      recording date/time information reading means for reading the recording date/time information from said  
10    recording medium;

      contents reproduction permission information generating means for generating contents reproduction permission information indicating that the encrypted contents may be reproduced based on the recording date/time information  
15    that was read, reproduction date/time information that is acquired by said date/time information acquiring means and that is information on a date/time that is between a moment a reproduction request for the encrypted contents is made and a moment key information for decrypting the encrypted contents  
20    is generated, and reproduction permission limit information on the encrypted contents;

      key information generating means for generating the key information based at least on the generated contents reproduction permission information; and

25    decrypting means for decrypting the encrypted contents read from said recording medium based on the key information generated by said key information generating means.

30    4. The contents reproducing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the reproduction permission limit information is set in the apparatus in advance.

35    5. The contents reproducing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the reproduction permission limit information is set in the apparatus based on eternally supplied information.

6. A contents recording apparatus comprising:

date/time information acquiring means for acquiring information on a date/time;

key information generating means for generating  
5 key-information generating information and for generating key  
information from the key-information generating information;  
encrypting means for encrypting contents based on the  
generated key information;

recording means for recording, in a recording medium,  
10 the encrypted contents and recording date/time information  
that is acquired by said date/time information acquiring means  
and that is information on a date/time that is between a moment  
the contents are entered and a moment the contents are recorded;  
and

15           retaining means for retaining the recording date/time  
information acquired by said date/time information acquiring  
means and the key-information generating information  
generated by said key information generating means, the  
recording date/time information being associated with the  
20   key-information generating information.

7. The contents recording apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

comparing means for comparing the recording date/time  
25 information retained in said retaining means and current  
date/time information that is information on a current  
date/time acquired by said date/time information acquiring  
means; and

controlling means for erasing or changing the recording  
30 date/time information retained in said retaining means and  
the key-information generating information associated with  
the recording date/time information according to a comparison  
result of said comparing means.

35           8. A contents reproducing apparatus that reproduces  
encrypted contents from a recording medium storing therein

the contents encrypted based on key information and recording date/time information on a date/time at which recording operation on the encrypted contents was performed, said reproducing apparatus comprising:

5        contents reading means for reading the encrypted contents from said recording medium;

         recording date/time information reading means for reading the recording date/time information from said recording medium;

10       retaining means for retaining the recording date/time information and key-information generating information, the recording date/time information being associated with the key-information generating information;

         retained information reading means for reading the  
15       key-information generating information, which is associated with the recording date/time information that was read, from said retaining means;

         key information generating means for generating the key information based on the key-information generating  
20       information that was read; and

         decrypting means for decrypting the encrypted contents, read from said recording means, based on the key information generated by said key information generating means.

25       9: The contents reproducing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

         date/time information acquiring means for acquiring information on a date/time;

         comparing means for comparing the recording date/time  
30       information retained in said retaining means and current date/time information that is information on a current date/time acquired by said date/time information acquiring means; and

         a controller that stops an information reading operation  
35       of said retained information reading means or stops a decryption operation of said decrypting means according to

a comparison result of said comparing means.

10. A contents transmission method comprising the steps of:

5       generating contents reproduction permission  
information indicating that contents may be reproduced;  
      generating key information based at least on the  
generated contents reproduction permission information;  
      encrypting the contents based on the generated key  
10 information; and  
      transmitting the encrypted contents and either  
transmission date/time information on information on a  
date/time at which a transmission operation of the encrypted  
contents was performed or preset transmission date/time  
15 information.

11. A transmission medium that transmits:

      contents encrypted based on key information generated  
based at least on contents reproduction permission information  
20 indicating that the contents may be reproduced; and  
      either transmission date/time information on a  
date/time at which a transmission operation of the encrypted  
contents was performed or preset transmission date/time  
information.

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12. A contents reception method that receives contents  
encrypted based on key information, generated based at least  
on contents reproduction permission information indicating  
that the contents may be reproduced, and either transmission  
30 date/time information on a date/time at which transmission  
operation on the encrypted contents was performed or preset  
transmission date/time information, said method comprising  
the steps of:

      storing the received encrypted contents and the  
35 transmission date/time information;  
      acquiring reproduction date/time information on a

date/time that is between a moment a reproduction request for the stored encrypted contents is made and a moment key information for decrypting the encrypted contents is generated;

5           generating contents reproduction permission information indicating that the encrypted contents may be reproduced based on the stored transmission date/time information, the reproduction date/time information, and contents reproduction permission limit information on the  
10 encrypted contents;

          generating the key information based at least on the generated contents reproduction permission information; and

          decrypting the stored encrypted contents based on the generated key information.  
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13. The contents reception method according to claim 12, wherein the reproduction permission limit information is set in advance.

20           14. The contents reception method according to claim 12, wherein the reproduction permission limit information is set based on eternally supplied information.